



## OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

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December 7, 2018

James Lower, Committee Chair  
House Local Government Committee

Dear Committee Chair Lower,


**We are writing to you on behalf of the City of Kalamazoo to express our opposition to Michigan Senate Bill 1188, "Vegetation Removal Preemption Act".**

Michigan Senate Bill 1188 is inconsistent with the City of Kalamazoo's values for environmental responsibility. Environmental Responsibility is one of 10 Strategic Vision Goals that guide the work of our City and inform budgeting, project, and program decisions. These goals are the result of community priorities that were elevated during the 16-month, city-wide Imagine Kalamazoo visioning process.

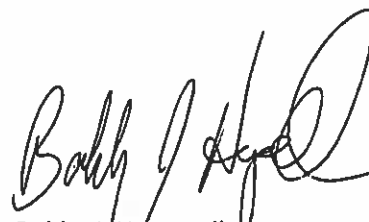
The City of Kalamazoo's Environment Responsibility Strategic Vision Goal emphasizes the importance of promoting the conservation of natural resources and encouraging responsible development. The work plan in the Imagine Kalamazoo 2025 Master Plan, informed by the same engagement process as the Strategic Vision Goals, includes items such as increasing the tree canopy, protecting Natural Features, and incentivizing low impact development.

We hope you will join us in opposing Michigan Senate Bill 1188, so that the City of Kalamazoo and other municipalities retain the freedom to uphold their community values.

Sincerely,



James K. Ritsema, ICMA-CM  
City Manager



Bobby J. Hopewell,  
Mayor